

a Fellow of the Royal Meteorological Society, and a regular meteorological observer. He died on 1897 January 20, after a long and weary illness, leaving a widow, one son, and three daughters.

SAMUEL HICKLING PARKES was born at Birmingham on 1817 April 8. He was the eldest son of Mr. James Parkes, of Handsworth, the founder of a firm of optical and mathematical instrument makers in St. Mary's Row, Birmingham, and joined his father in this business about the age of sixteen. He worked hard to develop this business, but always found time for scientific pursuits. He married Miss Emma Lloyd Kershaw, and they had one child, Mr. S. T. H. Parkes, who survives them. Mr. S. H. Parkes died on 1896 August 12. Among his papers was found the following note, which his son has kindly communicated to the secretaries. "A short obituary is always requested by the R.A.S. for insertion in their proceedings. If this must be, I wish it to be as brief as possible. No reference to early school days, &c., but simply spent a practical, uneventful life—early devotion to study of general science, especially natural history and comparative physiology. This pursued through life, while engaged in active business. Occasionally lecturing gratuitously on these subjects. Uniform endeavour to act under the influence of religious principles, and to employ talents and knowledge bestowed in useful ministrations to others. When unable to engage in active duties, wrote and published *Unfinished Worlds*."

It does not seem possible to comply with the spirit of this note better than by quoting it verbatim, adding simply that Mr. Parkes lived from 1865 to 1885 at King's Norton, where he had an observatory and a 5-inch refractor telescope. This was disposed of about ten years ago, and his later scientific observations were confined to microscopy. He was elected a Fellow of this Society on 1882 January 13.

SIR JOHN PENDER was born in 1815, and was the son of the late James Pender, of the Vale of Leven, Dumbartonshire. He was educated at the High School, Glasgow, and began a successful business career in Glasgow and in Manchester. His work in relieving the suffering during the Cotton Famine is still remembered with gratitude; but his chief work, which he began about the age of forty, was connected with submarine telegraphy. In 1857, when the late Mr. Cyrus Field organised the first attempt to lay an Atlantic cable, Mr. Pender was one of the contributors of 1,000*l.* towards the expenses. This attempt was unsuccessful, but the experience gained gave sufficient confidence for another in the following year, and this cable was actually laid, although it only worked for twenty-eight days. The next attempt was made in 1864, after considerable difficulty in getting the money together, and was only rendered possible ultimately by Mr. Pender offering his personal guarantee for a quarter of a million. After two-

thirds of this cable was laid by the *Great Eastern* it broke, and could not be recovered. Another company was formed to make a new attempt in 1866, Mr. Pender being again responsible for a considerable share of the expenses. This time not only was the cable successfully laid, but the end of the last year's broken cable was recovered, and it was completed. From this time Mr. Pender became a recognised leader in submarine telegraphy, and at his death presided over companies with a total capital of fifteen millions, and a cable mileage of 73,640 nautical miles. He was knighted in 1888, and promoted G.C.M.G. in 1892, and received many foreign orders and distinctions. His parliamentary career was a long and honourable one. He was M.P. for Totnes, 1865-66; Wick Burghs, 1872-85, 1892-95. He also contested Linlithgowshire 1868, Wick Burghs 1885, Stirling Burghs 1886, and Govan 1889. He took a keen interest in pictures, of which he had a fine collection, making it, moreover, a rule never to buy a modern picture without making the personal acquaintance of the artist.

He married, in 1840, Marion, daughter of Mr. James Cearns; and some years after her death he married, in 1851, Emma, daughter of Mr. Henry Denison, of Daybrook, Notts; and leaves two sons and two daughters. He was elected a Fellow of this Society on 1883 June 8. It may be mentioned that, on occasions when application has been made to the cable companies for facilities on behalf of purely scientific enterprise, Sir John Pender was always ready to use his influence in their favour, and his Fellowship of this Society was constantly referred to as one of the reasons for his doing so.

WADHAM LOCKE SUTTON was born at Highgate in 1815, and was the youngest son of the late Robert Sutton of Rossway, Hertford. His life was spent almost entirely in the neighbouring town of Northchurch, and at Dudswell, where he lived for some years, he erected an observatory containing a telescope of considerable size. He was a Master of the Mercers' Company in 1858-59. One of his chief interests was work connected with the Church, and he was rector's churchwarden from 1860 till his death, which took place at Northchurch on 1896 September 25, in his eighty-second year.

Mr. Sutton married, in 1858, Louisa Ann, daughter of the late Rev. William Ludlow, Vicar of Kirton, Lincolnshire. He was elected a Fellow of this Society on 1854 November 10.

SIDNEY WATERS was born at Camden Town, on 1853 October 13. He was educated at Amersham Hall, near Reading, and showed considerable mathematical ability, as well as an ingenuity in devising and making apparatus. His life occupation was that of a merchant; but he was keenly interested in astronomy from an early age, and published his first paper in 1873 April, drawing attention to the fact that where "irresolvable" nebulae cluster